



THE Trumpet

A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal | September/October 2014

CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY

INSIDE
THIS
ISSUE

- Pink Heals Tour
- New Smoke Detector Program
- Blue Ribbon Award
- Overland Park Receives #1 Rating
- Sky Lantern Threat

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STAY CONNECTED



Just a reminder...

**Working Smoke Alarms
Save Lives**

Test Yours Every Month!

Fire Prevention Week • October 5–11, 2014



FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL



Preparedness is more than just a plan

HARD TO BELIEVE, but a new school year is already upon us. The Office of the State Fire Marshal remains extremely busy as schools, colleges and universities all over the state greet an influx of students.

This time of year begins our annual inspections of school facilities and also brings with it a reminder that September is Campus Fire Safety Month.

From January 2000 to March 2014, 85 fatal fires occurred on a college campus. According to the Center for Campus Fire Safety, August and September are typically the worst times of year for fatal campus-related housing fires. The National Fire Protection Association notes that fire departments responded to an estimated average of 3,810 campus-related structural fires annually during 2007-2011.

“ Education and awareness are key to stopping tragic fires. ”

So what can we do to save more young lives? Education and awareness are key to stopping tragic fires, so I urge you to take advantage of the information in this issue of The Trumpet and on our website.

Although it has been busy with our move to a new location, the OSFM is committed more than ever to build strong and positive partnerships with all the fire services in the state, and stand ready to assist you to improve fire and life safety in Kansas.

I personally invite you to visit the new office and meet with us so we can determine how best to assist you. We hope you take us up on our offer!

Doug Jorgensen

Kansas State Fire Marshal



HOT NEWS FROM THE OSFM



We are very excited about the move and, as always, remain committed to providing the same excellent service.

Come visit us at our new location!

800 SW Jackson St., Suite 104
Topeka, KS 66612-1216



OUR MISSION

The Office of the State Fire Marshal is dedicated to protecting the lives and property of the people of Kansas from the hazards of fire, explosion and hazardous materials by fostering a safe environment through education, inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, hazardous material incident mitigation, data collection, and by acting as a liaison to the Kansas Fire Service.

All of the efforts of the Office are designed to reduce the deaths, injuries and property losses of Kansans.

CONTACT US

Office of the State Fire Marshal
700 SW Jackson, Suite 600
Topeka, KS 66603-3714
785-296-3401



THE TRUMPET



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SUBMISSIONS

For information on receiving the State Fire Marshal Trumpet or to submit your meeting notices, training announcements, articles, photos, or other information, please contact [Mai Hester](mailto:mai.hester@ksfm.ks.gov). Photos should be submitted as a .jpg or .tif attachment to an email. All materials are due by the 20th of the month prior to publication.



HOT NEWS FROM THE OSFM

Nominations Now Open for Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award



Chief Tom McGaughey

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW being accepted for the 2014 Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award. This award is named in honor of Wichita's eighth Fire Chief and is presented annually at the KSAFC conference by the Kansas State Fire Marshal's Office for service above and beyond the call of duty.

On the evening of Thursday, November 21, 1968, a fire alarm was received from the Yingling Chevrolet Company of Wichita, Kansas. While fighting the fire, the roof collapsed and Fire Chief Tom McGaughey, Chief Fire Inspector M.O. Wells, and firefighters Dale J. Mishler and Jimmy Lee Austin were trapped under tons of burning debris and twisted steel. For those fellow firefighters at the scene, as well as those who manned the stations that night, the tragedy and the horror of it all was etched in their minds forever.

In 1971, in memory of Chief Tom McGaughey, his fellow firefighters and this tragic event, the Office of the State Fire Marshal, the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs and the Kansas State Firefighters Association adopted the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award to be presented at the Fire Chiefs Conference to the fire department and the firefighter or firefighters whose bravery and courage went above and beyond the call of duty.

Nominations should be in the form of a letter that includes the details of the incident and the name or names of the firefighters you wish to nominate for bravery and courage above and beyond the call of duty. Additional documentation, including pictures, video and news media articles will help support and justify your nominations.

The deadline for accepting nominations is Friday, October 3, 2014.

Send nominations to:

Office of the State Fire Marshal
Attention: Tom McGaughey Award
800 SW Jackson St., Suite 104
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1216



Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen presents the 2013 Tom McGaughey Award to **Acting Captain Mike North, Lieutenant Ignacio Ayala, Firefighter Justin Bruster, Firefighter John Hattrup and Firefighter Jeremiah Toothaker** for meritorious actions taken at a house fire on April 12, 2013.

#

BY THE NUMBERS



96% OF ALL HOMES
IN THE U.S. HAVE AT
LEAST ONE
**SMOKE
ALARM**

FROM 2007-2011,
**NO SMOKE
ALARMS**
WERE PRESENT IN
MORE THAN
1/3 OF HOME FIRE
DEATHS

ALMOST
5 MILLION
HOUSEHOLDS
DO NOT
HAVE ANY
SMOKE ALARMS

SMOKE ALARMS
SHOULD BE REPLACED
EVERY
10 YEARS



Source: Smoke Alarm in U.S.
Home Fires, Marty Ahrens,
March 2014

PREVENTION



Gov. Brownback Proclaims September as **Campus Fire Safety Month**

EACH YEAR COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY STUDENTS, on- and off-campus, experience hundreds of fire-related emergencies nationwide. That is why Governor Sam Brownback proclaimed September as Campus Fire Safety Month to raise awareness of the fire risks when living on- or off-campus, urge young adults to practice life-saving fire safety measures, and encourage Kansas colleges and universities to provide fire safety education programs.

According to the Center for Campus Fire Safety (CCFS), August and September are typically the worst times of year for fatal campus-related housing fires. On average, 10 students die annually. There are several specific causes for fires on college campuses, including cooking, intentionally set fires, overloaded power strips and open flame. Overall, most college-related fires are due to a general lack of knowledge about fire safety and prevention.



Mende Barnett, Brenda McNorton and Doug Jorgensen were presented with the proclamation from Gov. Sam Brownback.

CAUSES OF CAMPUS FIRES

According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), an estimated 3,800 university housing fires occur each year in the United States with 88 percent being cooking fires. The leading causes of campus related fires include: 1) cooking (hot plates, microwaves, portable grills, etc.); 2) arson; 3) careless smoking; 4) unattended candles; and 5) overloaded extension cords, power strips, and outlets.



CAMPUS FIRES



FROM JANUARY 2000
TO MARCH 2014
85 FATAL FIRES

OCCURRED ON A
COLLEGE CAMPUS, IN
GREEK HOUSING OR IN
OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING
– CLAIMING A TOTAL OF
122 VICTIMS.

72 FIRES
HAVE OCCURRED IN
OFF-CAMPUS
HOUSING CLAIMING
101 VICTIMS.

7 FIRES
HAVE OCCURRED IN
ON-CAMPUS
HOUSING OR
RESIDENCE HALLS
CLAIMING
9 VICTIMS.

6 FIRES
HAVE OCCURRED IN
GREEK
HOUSING CLAIMING
10 VICTIMS.

Source: The Center for
Campus Fire Safety

PREVENT CAMPUS FIRES

Alcohol, Drugs & Fire Don't Mix

Alcohol or drugs increase your chance of falling asleep while smoking and reduces your ability to respond to a fire alarm and escape from a fire.

Cooking is the cause of 83 percent of university housing fires.

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Cook only where it is permitted.
- If a fire starts in a microwave, keep the door closed and unplug the unit.

Smoking

- Smoke outside of the building and always put it all the way out before you discard it.
- Use deep, wide, and sturdy ashtrays. Sit ashtrays on something sturdy and hard to ignite.
- It is risky to smoke when you have been drinking or are drowsy.

Escape Plans should be known and practiced. Always know two ways out, no matter where you are.

- Get low and go under the smoke to escape to your safe exit.
- Feel the door before opening it. If it is hot, use your second way out.
- Use the stairs; never use an elevator during a fire.
- Practice your escape plan. Always have two ways out.

Fire Sprinklers and Smoke Alarms

- Don't disable or remove batteries from smoke alarms.
- Don't hang things on or cover fire sprinklers, which could affect their ability to work properly.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, immediately evacuate the building; don't assume it's a false alarm.

Candles are one of the leading causes of fires in both on- and off-campus dwellings despite the fact that most colleges and universities forbid candles in residence halls. Twenty percent of fires in dorm rooms are started by candles.

- Make sure candles are in sturdy holders and put out after each use.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.
- Use flameless candles, which are both safe and attractive.

FIRE SPRINKLERS & SMOKE ALARMS

The most effective fire loss prevention and reduction measure for both life and property is the installation and maintenance of fire sprinklers. Fire sprinkler systems offer the greatest level of fire safety because they control the fire immediately in the room of origin, help limit the spread of fire, and often extinguish the fire before the fire department arrives.

FACT

! Fires in dormitories are more common during the evening hours, between 5–11 pm, and on weekends.

! Roughly five out of six fires in dormitories are started by cooking.



www.nfpa.org/education

If a **fire**
should
occur...



Get Out



Stay Out



Stay Alive

**STAY SAFE
ON CAMPUS!**

SPRINKLERS VS. NO SPRINKLERS IN DORM ROOMS



These post-fire photographs of dorm rooms show the difference a sprinkler makes. There is little visible damage in the photo on the left that had a sprinkler in the room; there was no sprinkler in the dorm room in the picture on the right.

The dormitory burn experiment was conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the USFA.



NFPA reminds you

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES.

Roughly **two thirds** of home fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms

Smoke alarms should be **installed** on **every** level of the home, outside each sleeping area and inside each bedroom.

For the best protection, **interconnect** all the smoke alarms so when one sounds, they all sound.

Replace smoke alarms **10** years from the date of manufacture.

Test all smoke alarms at least **once a month** by pushing the test button.

When the smoke alarm sounds, **get outside and stay outside.**
Go to your **outside meeting place.** Call the fire department from a cell or neighbor's phone.
Stay outside until the fire department tells you it is safe to go back inside.

NFPA 2014 NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION | 1 BATTERYMARCH PARK, QUINCY, MA 02169 | NFPA.ORG/SMOKEALARMS • SPARKY.ORG



A VIBRANT CARAVAN of two pink fire trucks, a pink tour bus and several similar hued vehicles visited Topeka on August 4 generating awareness for a Phoenix-based program that is dedicated to supporting those afflicted with cancer, raising awareness and promoting its “Care Enough to Wear Pink” message.



The Pink Heals fire trucks and tour bus brought a vivid splash of color to the state capital. With chapters across the country, Pink Heals works to give hope to those fighting illness.

The eye-grabbing trucks were in Kansas as part of the Pink Heals organization, which was started in 2007 by retired firefighter Dave Graybill. Pink Heals visits different cities all across the United States to spread awareness about their cause. The goal of Pink Heals is to bring the program to as many towns as possible and their message is that a community can come together to help those in need. Those involved, including local volunteers, come out on their own time and consider Pink Heals a labor of love.

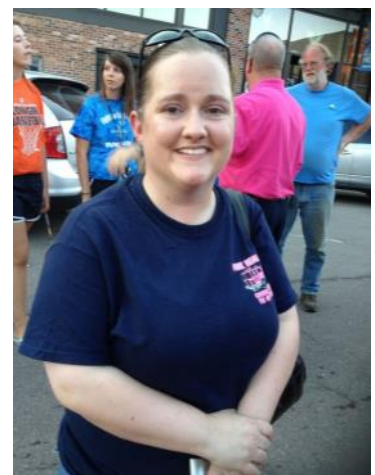


The organization is staffed mainly by volunteers and Graybill, who takes no salary for his work with Pink Heals, stressed his organization seeks to inspire local residents to start fundraising efforts of their own. Pink Heals allows groups and organizations to use its logo in their fundraising efforts, then decide how to disburse the money on their own.

After spending the morning in Lawrence, the bright fire trucks made their way to Topeka with a stop at the Capitol Building. The public was invited to add their names to the pink fire trucks that travels across the United States full of signatures from women battling cancer, cancer survivors and those who have lost loved ones.

Pink Heals made other stops at several other locations around Topeka, including surprise home visits to two cancer patients. The trucks also stopped by the Mission Township and Soldier Township Fire Department stations before heading to the North Topeka Arts District where they were warmly greeted by a crowd of cancer survivors, supporters and firefighters from Texas, Oklahoma, Florida, North Carolina, Arkansas and Wichita.

For Pink Heals merchandise, or information on how to start or contribute to a local chapter, is available at www.pinkhealstour.org. You can also follow Pink Heals on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/pinkhealstour.



Topekan Becky Thompson visits with Pink Heals. A cancer survivor, Thompson recognizes the importance of community-based aid, such as that provided by Pink Heals.

2014 Pink Heals National Tour



PREVENTION



New Smoke Detector Program Hopes to Save More Lives

THE OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL will be implementing a statewide residential smoke alarm installation program as a fire prevention effort. “Saving the Lives of Kansans One Home at a Time” allows trained volunteers to install smoke alarms in owner-occupied homes free of charge.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), working smoke alarms are the key to saving lives from fire.

“Smoke alarms are the most effective early warning device there is,” says Judy Comoletti, NFPA’s division manager for public education. “Just having a smoke alarm in your home cuts your chance of dying in a reported fire in half.”

“Eligible homeowners can request a free smoke detector by contacting their local fire department.”

The program not only provides homeowners with a smoke detector, trained volunteers authorized by the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) will also install the 10-year life expectancy alarms.

“Our goal is to make sure residents have the protection of a smoke detector,” says Jorgensen, “because smoke detectors alone won’t prevent every fire death. Our project includes educating residents to have a home fire escape plan so they know what to do if the smoke detector sounds.”



The initial smoke detectors will be supplied by Kidde, a leader in fire detection and suppression equipment. Other companies have also been invited to participate in the program.

“Fire can grow and spread through a home in a matter of minutes,” says Jorgensen. “That’s why the advance warning provided by smoke alarms can be essential to saving lives. By implementing this statewide smoke detector program, the OSFM is helping to ensure that all citizens are safer in their homes.”

For more information about the program:

Visit www.ksfm.ks.gov/smokedetectors or contact Mende Barnett, education consultant, at mende.barnett@ksfm.ks.gov or 785-296-0659.

PREVENTION

Blue Ribbon Award



Hilltop Manor

A HUGE CONGRATULATIONS goes out to Hilltop Manor in Cunningham, Kansas for no life safety code violations in the last five years. Way to go!!!

Hilltop Manor is listed in US News and World Report Magazine, February 2010, 2011 and 2014, as "One of America's Best Nursing Homes." It has a CMS 5-star rating, guaranteeing quality Alzheimer's nursing facilities and nursing home services.

Overland Park Receives #1 Rating

OVERLAND PARK has received another top rating.

The Insurance Services Office assigns a fire suppression rating of 1 to 10, with 1 being the highest. It has awarded Overland Park its top rating of 1. Previously, the city had a rating of 3.



"This top rating of our community is due in large part to our fire department. Overland Park is only one of two cities locally, and among 60 cities nationwide, to receive this recognition," said Overland Park Mayor Carl Gerlach. "What this means is that our residents and businesses enjoy the best fire protection available.

"Further, this rating may help property owners reduce the cost of insurance premiums whether for a home or business," Gerlach said.

ISO's rating takes into consideration a community's fire department, water supply and emergency communications.

"It is nice to receive recognition for what our firefighters and community partners have collectively accomplished," said Fire Chief Bryan Dehner. "We owe a large part of our success to our partners including Johnson County Water One, the Johnson County Emergency Communications Center and our neighboring fire departments who assist us through the Johnson County Auto Aid Inter-local agreement," Dehner added.

Educational Materials Available



FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION is provided through ongoing fire prevention programs as well as public awareness media campaigns to help educate everyone in making informed decisions regarding fire and life safety.

Fire Prevention programs are delivered through on-site presentations, class room instruction, press releases, newsletters and online.

Contact the Prevention Division at 785-296-0659 to request an on-site presentation or other education materials, or if you have questions regarding fire and life safety issues.



PREVENTION

Prevention Has Been in Full Swing!

By Mende Barnett, Education Consultant



SAFE KIDS SAFETY DAY TOPEKA ZOO

Lions and tigers and bears, OH MY! Our office participated in the Safe Kids Safety Day at the Topeka Zoo. Thousands of kids and their families spent an enjoyable day at the zoo learning about all different types of safety, from bike helmets to skiing safety. Our booth focused on cooking safety and the importance of smoke alarms in the home.



LEADING AGE KANSAS SPRING CONFERENCE

Leading Age Kansas Spring Conference in Wichita was a hit! Healthcare administrators and staff were there to ask questions and take a look at our "hazardous" booth. It consisted of different types of fire hazards amongst a "mock" living room. The hazards included a broken smoke alarm, extension cords under a carpet, over loaded power strips, and multiple other fire risks. Jose Ocadiz from Wichita Fire Department graciously provided us with a few "burned up" appliances to showcase.

Thank you, Jose!



PLEASANT HILL ELEMENTARY

Safety Day Booth in Topeka had over 200 kids come through our Fire Safety booth and learned about cooking fire safety, novelty lighters, home fire drills, and other important fire prevention facts. It was a day packed full of fun and lots of questions! Soldier Township Fire Department was there with a fire truck and also helped to teach the kids about calling 911. Thank you Soldier Township Fire Department for helping make this day a success!



Photos provided by Mende Barnett

INVESTIGATION

Fire Threats from Sky Lanterns

THE SUMMER FIRE SEASON is upon us, and the dangers of uncontrolled fires increase in the wildland urban interface and in neighborhoods where dry vegetation vulnerability is high.

While we commonly regulate outdoor fires, smoking and other ignition sources through the model fire codes, sky lanterns are another potential threat to cause unintended ignitions in these vegetated areas. While beautiful in flight — as shown on a variety of television advertisements — they create a threat since they contain uncontrolled fire sources left literally to the vagaries of wind and terrain.

Also known as kongming lanterns, wish lanterns, sky candles, or fire balloons, sky lanterns consist of a paper or fabric balloon that traps heated air produced by an open flame device, usually a candle. The open flame device often is connected to the balloon by a wire frame.

While these devices may not be specifically prohibited or allowed by the model fire codes, fire safety regulations do give the code official the authority to regulate open flames both indoors and outdoors. One code section, for example, specifically states “No person shall throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire.”¹



Sky lanterns, while beautiful, create a fire threat in dry vegetation areas.

The code official also has the authority through the operational permitting process to regulate open flame devices. The code official can apply conditions to the permit, thereby controlling the release and recovery of these devices, as well as limit their use when environmental conditions make fires particularly liable.

For additional information, consider enrolling in the National Fire Academy (NFA) course “Fire Inspection Principles” (R/N0220). Information and applications can be obtained at <http://apps.usfa.fema.gov/nfacourses/catalog/details/47>. The course is available at the NFA in Emmitsburg, Maryland, or through your state fire service training agency.

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- * Sky lanterns should never be flown when there is any noticeable wind present. Launch sky lanterns only in windless conditions. Wind may blow the sides of the sky lantern in, forcing the hot air out, causing the sky lantern to fall back to the earth, possibly starting a fire. Wind may also blow the sky lantern into another object before it reaches a safe altitude, possibly starting a fire. Be careful and please use common sense.
- * Only purchase sky lanterns that utilize flame retardant paper.
- * Never fly sky lanterns within 5 miles of an airport.
- * Sky lanterns should be kept out of the reach of children.
- * Do not release next to roads or other public thoroughfares.
- * Do not release in dry / drought conditions or near dry crops.
- * Never handle sky lanterns when under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- * Wear gloves and flame retardant clothing.
- * Keep water or fire extinguishers nearby in case of fire.
- * Make sure the flight path is clear so that lanterns will not drift into nearby buildings, trees, or other structures.
- * Do not use torn or damaged lanterns

Help Make the **Fallen Firefighter Memorial** a Reality



In 2001, legislation was signed that authorized the construction of a memorial to be built on the Capitol grounds in Topeka to honor Kansas firefighters who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

A scaled replica can be viewed at the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The OSFM also transports the replica to fire service events across the state.

If you would like to contribute towards the construction of the Kansas Fallen Firefighters Memorial, please send your tax deductible donation to:

Firefighters Memorial Fund
Attn: Eldred Wenger
Kansas Department of Administration, DFM
900 SW Jackson St., Room 600
Topeka, KS 66612